

*Catalogue of British Hymenoptera of the Family Chalcididæ.* By CLAUDE MORLEY, F.Z.S., F.E.S. Printed by Order of the Trustees of the British Museum. Svo. Pp. 74.

HITHERTO the British Hymenoptera, except only the Aculeata, have been greatly neglected, for though much work has been done of late years in this direction, yet it has been chiefly due to the labours of three entomologists—Marshall, Cameron, and Morley. Yet the Order is by far the largest of the seven great Orders of Insects, for the Coleoptera and Diptera are only estimated at approximately 3000 British species each, the Lepidoptera at 2000, the Hemiptera at 900, the Neuroptera at 640, and the Orthoptera at only 60; whereas the Hymenoptera, though our estimate is based on very incomplete lists, number upwards of 4830 British species.

A large proportion of these species are, however, of very small dimensions, the Mymaridæ, or Fairy Flies, belonging to the Proctotrupidæ, being the smallest insects known; some of these at least are parasitic on the eggs of other insects.

Many of the Chalcididæ, too, are very small, but they are the most numerous of the main groups of the Hymenoptera, and Mr. Morley enumerates 148 genera and 1424 species as occurring in Britain. They are almost exclusively parasitic, and, like other parasitic Hymenoptera, must do an immense work in the world by keeping down the numbers of injurious insects.

Mr. Morley's work does not profess to be a critical revision of these insects, but such a preliminary work was absolutely necessary before anything could be done to facilitate the study of this extensive and much neglected family. We regret, however, that a short bibliography should not have been added, especially as the descriptions of the principal English writer on the Family, Francis Walker, are scattered broadcast over many periodicals and separate publications: the 'Entomological Magazine,' 'Entomologist,' 'Transactions of the Entomological Society,' 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' 'Monographia Chalciditum,' 'List of Chalcididæ in the British Museum,' 'Notes on Chalcididæ,' &c. This is further complicated by the circumstance that the 'Monographia Chalciditum' is not a separate work, but only a continuation, comprising the genera not previously monographed in the 'Entomological Magazine.' The difficulty of obtaining these rare works and periodicals out of London is likely long to prove a serious impediment to the effective study of this Family.

Mr. Morley's work may be regarded as a continuation of the series of Catalogues of British Insects published by the Entomological Society of London some years ago, and is uniform with them.